



# HOW TO ASK BETTER QUESTIONS USING DATA



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



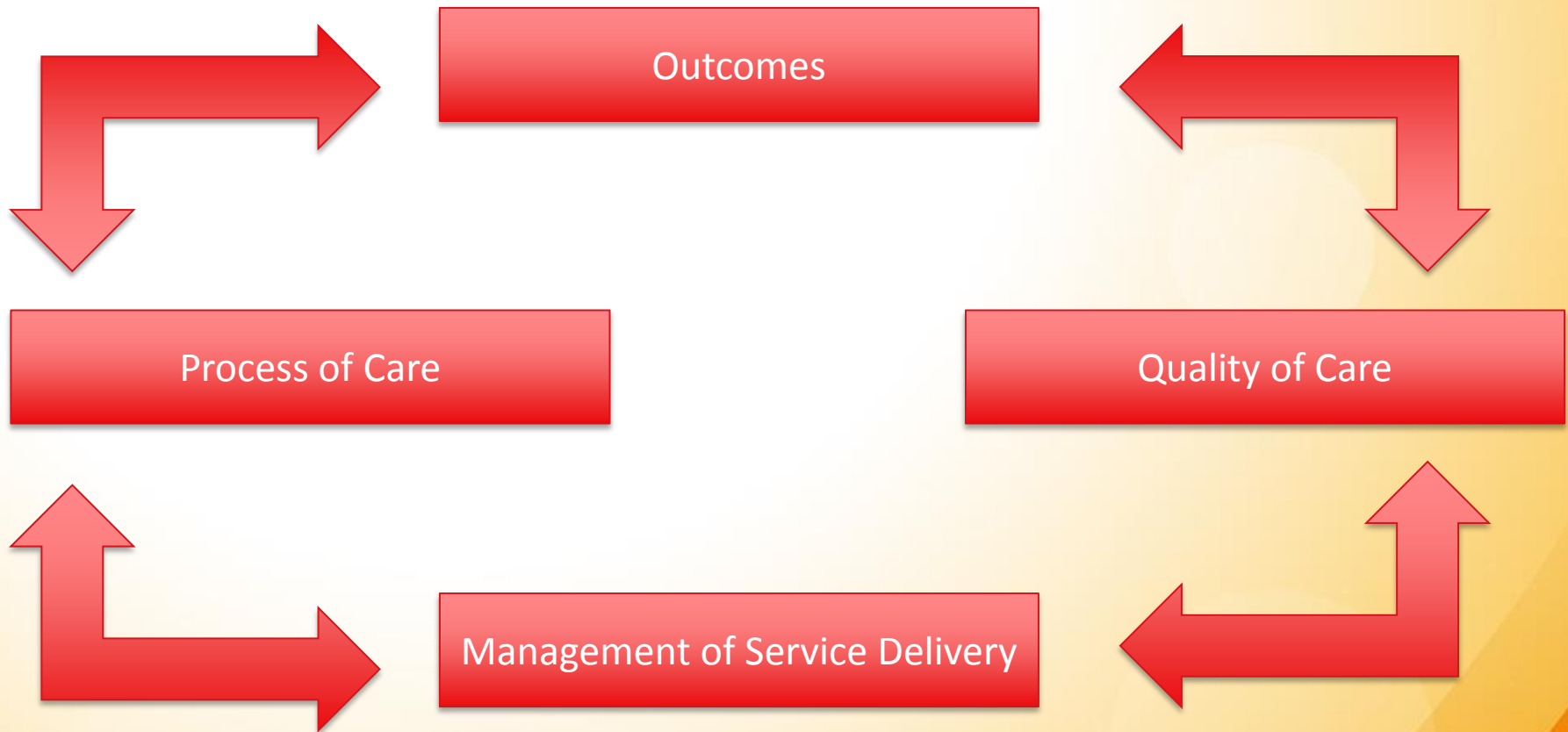
# Know your question

## Using data starts with a question

- The way you use data depends on the question being asked
- Determine your purpose, and clarify what you want the data to monitor, evaluate and/or explain
  - Characteristics
    - What does my population look like?
  - Monitoring
    - How do I understand what is happening with my population?
  - Performance/Outcomes
    - How does what we do everyday effect our population?

# Framework

## Organizing Framework for Child Welfare by Chapin Hall



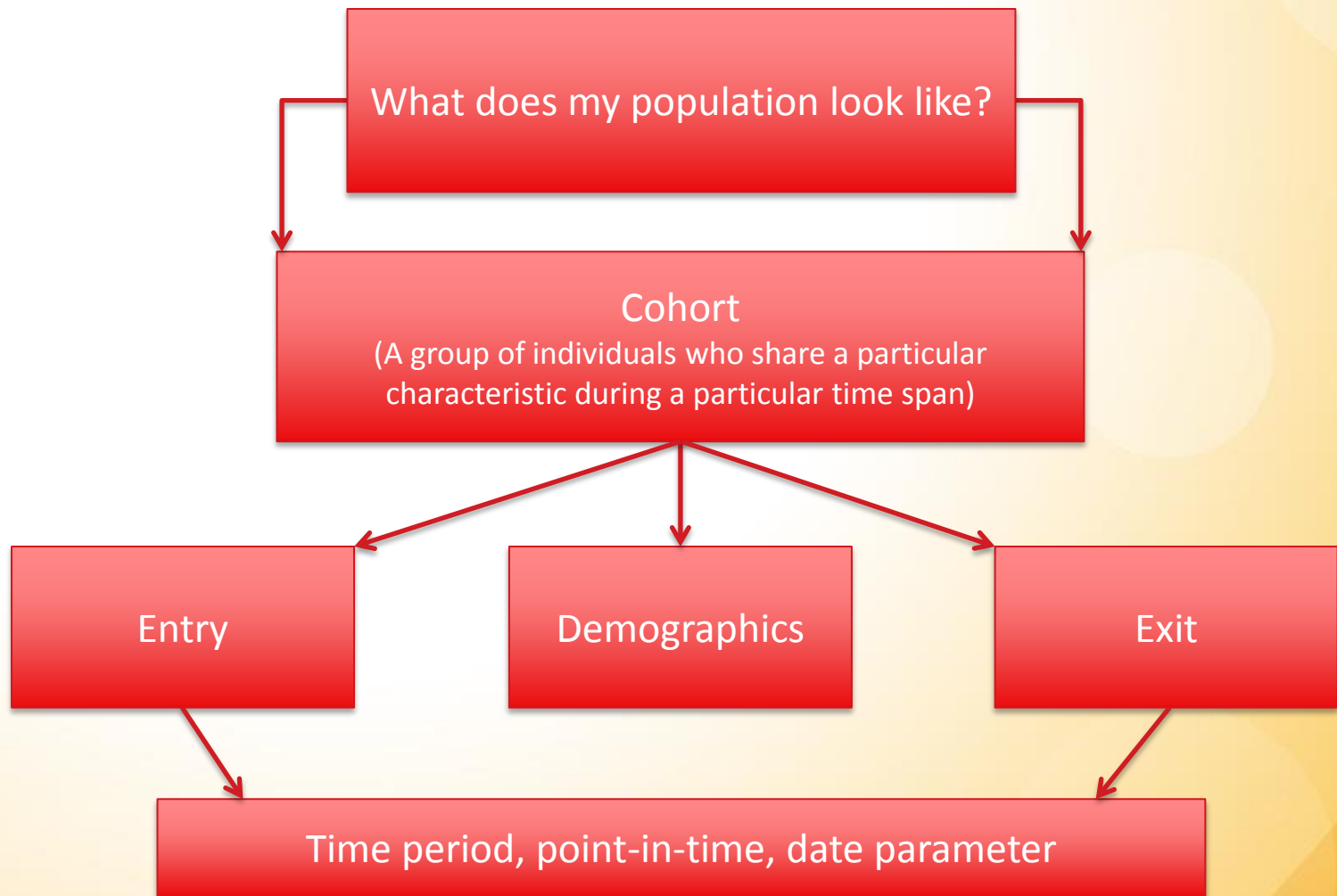


# Know your population and determine your approach

Your population group is usually your denominator

- The way you approach data depends on your population
  - Establish your approach through the use of cohort groups
    - Example of Cohort groups common in Child Welfare
      - Time period, point-in-time, date parameter
        - Entry versus Exit Groups
      - Demographics
  - Select your data and the measurements (if applicable) you plan to use
    - Select or build tools
    - In order to assess measurements, the business process must be defined (policy, programming, etc.)

# Characteristics







# Know your data and data toolset well

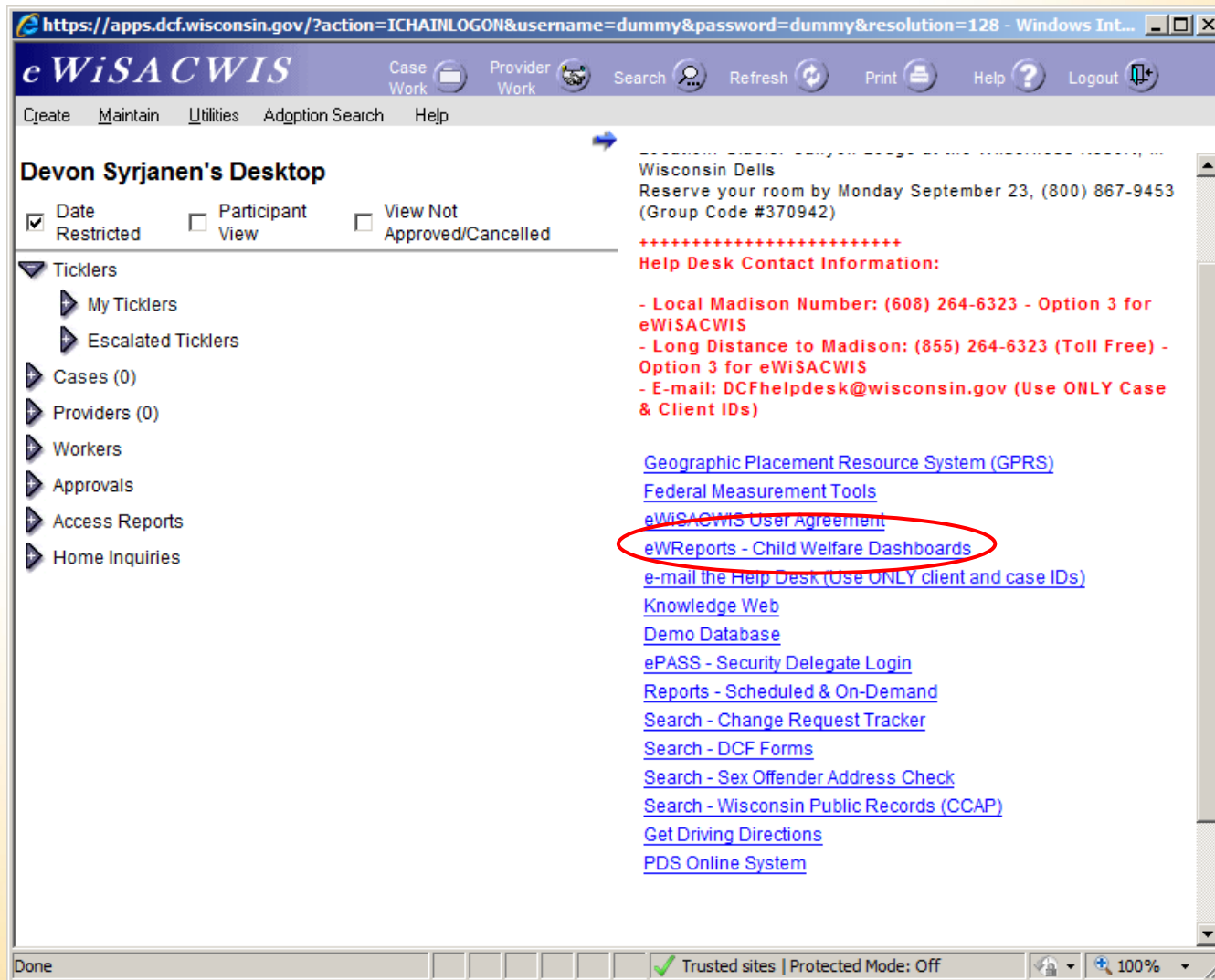
- Select or build tools
  - Combine eW data with local data
  - Use current tools to build up
  - Conduct a focus group or survey
  - Pair quantitative data with qualitative

## Tools you can utilize now

- eWReports
- Child Welfare Dashboards
- Excel: formulas, pivot tables, charts, etc.

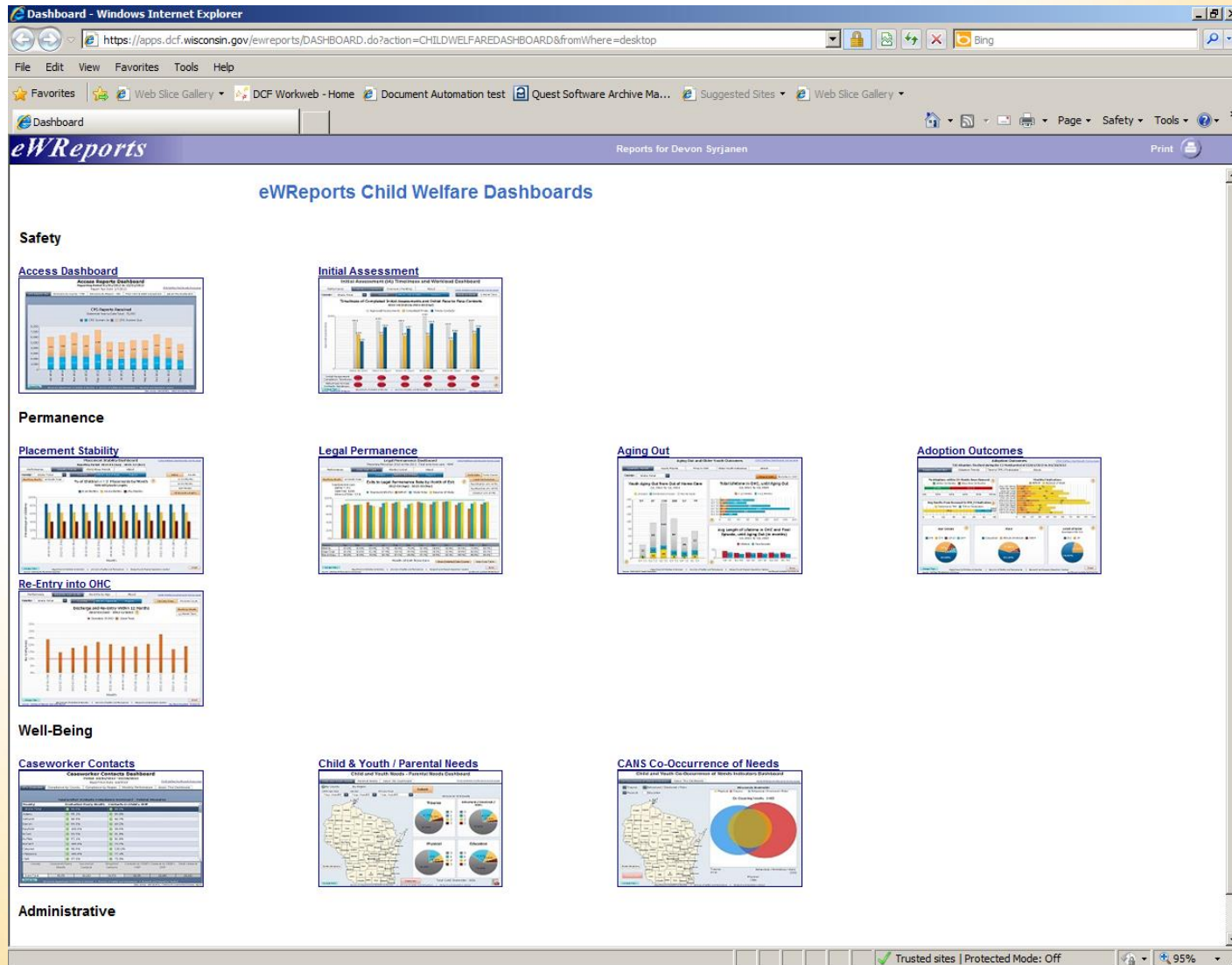
# Utilizing dashboards for high-level data questions

You can check the dashboards to find out answers related to re-entry, legal permanence, time to adoption, access/IA, and older youth outcomes.



# Utilizing dashboards for high-level data questions

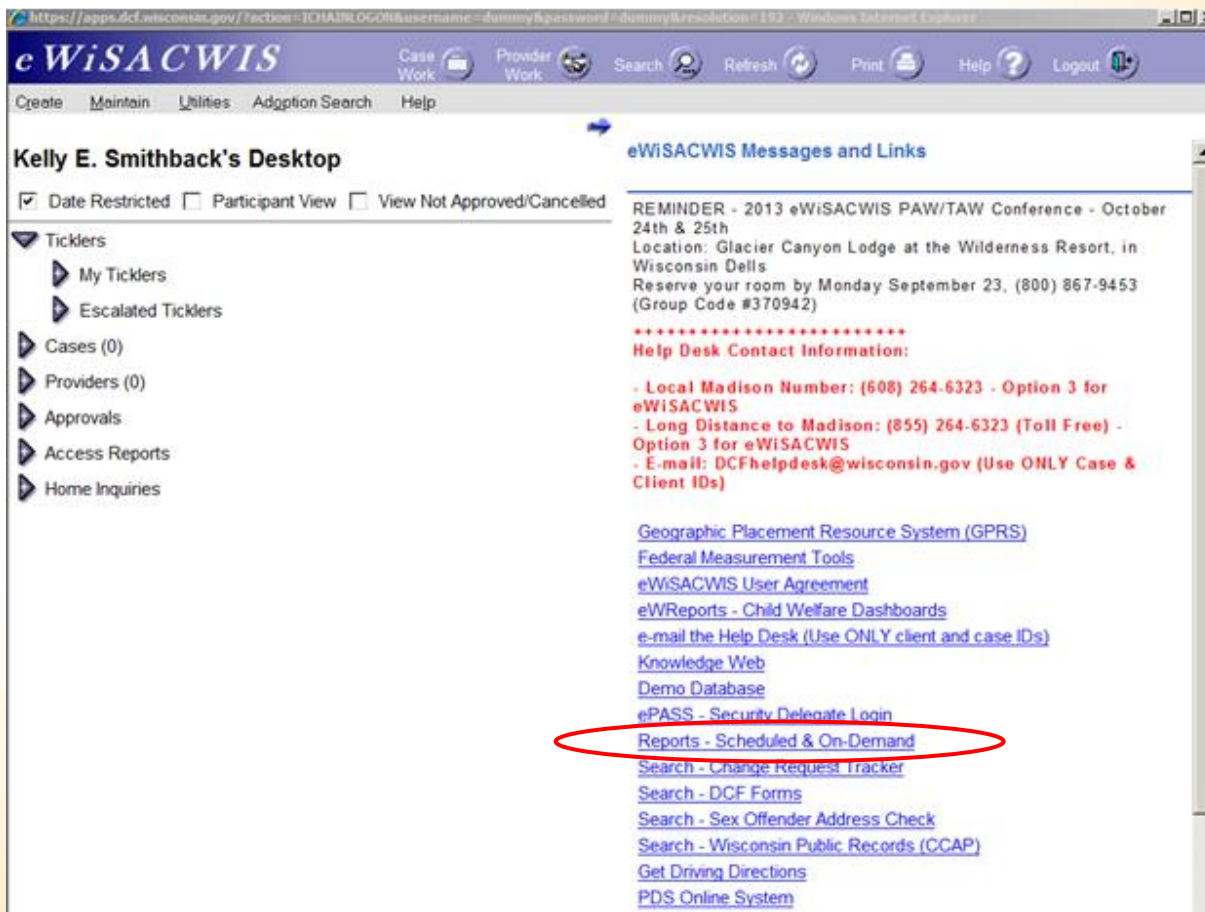
You can check the dashboards to find out answers related to re-entry, legal permanence, time to adoption, access/IA, and older youth outcomes.



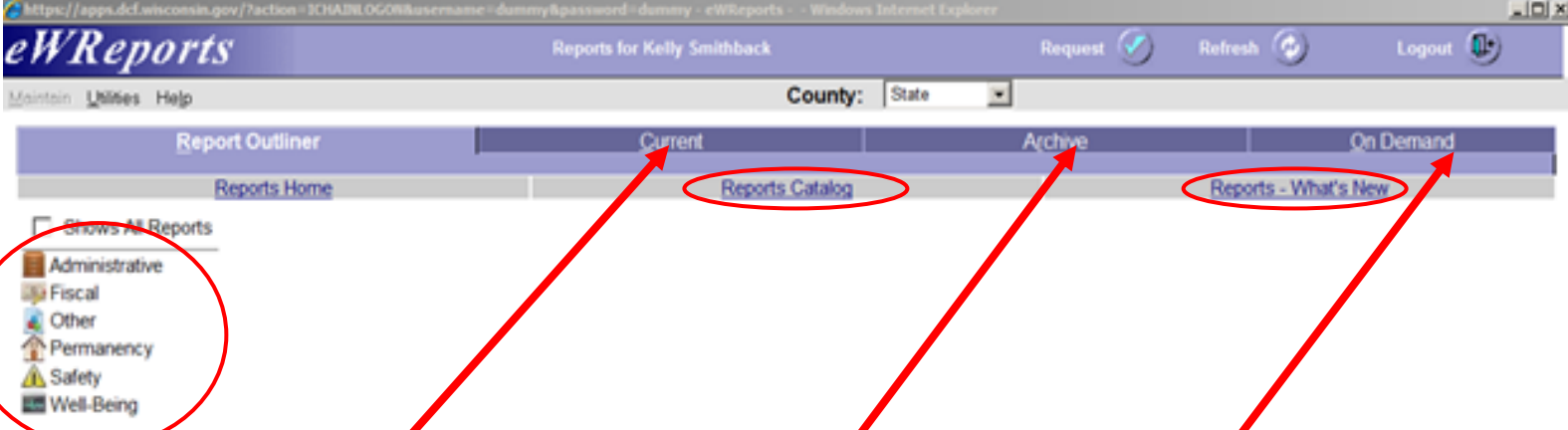


# Accessing the correct data through eWReports

To run an On Demand report or to view a previously run batched report, log in to eWiSACWIS and click on the “Reports-Scheduled and On-Demand” tab.



# Accessing the correct data through eWReports



The screenshot shows the eWReports web application interface. The browser address bar displays the URL: <https://apps.dcl.wisconsin.gov/?action=LOGIN&username=dummy&password=dummy>. The page title is "eWReports". The user is logged in as "Reports for Kelly Smithback". The interface includes a "County:" dropdown menu set to "State". The main navigation bar has tabs: "Report Outliner", "Current", "Archive", and "On Demand". Below this, there are links: "Reports Home", "Reports Catalog", and "Reports - What's New". A sidebar on the left lists report categories: "Shows All Reports", "Administrative", "Fiscal", "Other", "Permanency", "Safety", and "Well-Being". Red circles highlight the "Reports Catalog" link, the "Current" tab, the "Archive" tab, and the "Reports - What's New" link. Red arrows point from the "Current" tab to the "Reports Catalog" link, from the "Archive" tab to the "Reports Catalog" link, and from the "On Demand" tab to the "Reports - What's New" link.

Use the 'Current' tab to access regular batch reports

Use the 'Archive' tab to access archived batch reports

Create an 'On Demand' report to access information from a specific timeframe.

# Accessing the correct data through On Demand reports

Create an on-demand report through either:

- Using 'Utilities' and clicking the 'Request On Demand Report' option; or
- Using the 'Request' checkbox.

The screenshot shows the eWReports application interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Request' (with a checked checkbox), 'Refresh', and 'Logout'. The 'Utilities' menu is open, showing 'Request On Demand Report' as the selected option. Below the menu, a table displays report details:

	Current	Archive	On Demand
	Status	Run Date	Report Output
ADHOC070	<a href="#">Completed</a>	09/05/2013 16:26:32	<a href="#">ADHOC070 IHS Statewide.xls</a>
SM04A103	<a href="#">Completed</a>	09/19/2013 12:02:18	<a href="#">SM04A103_Case_ASSIGN.xls</a>
	<a href="#">Failed</a>	09/19/2013 11:52:02	<a href="#">002064371_20130919_114420.log</a> <b>Error processing Request:002064371 The maximum number of rows permitted on a worksheet been exceeded</b>

# Accessing the correct data through On Demand reports

Example: Report SM10A112 Placement Activity and Detail Report (PAAD)

On Demand Report Request -- Webpage Dialog

*eWReports* Print

On Demand Report Selection

Topic	Report	Regular Schedule
> If the person was in placement, and provided a direct documented service, then "PLACEMENT". >> If the person was identified in a CPS Report or Services Report, then "INTAKE" >> If the person has services documented on the Standard Program Services page, then "OTHER-SPS" >> Otherwise, the person is simply a "CASE PARTICIPANT" >Ad Hoc Reports On Demand Only	<a href="#">ADHOC049 Case Participant Demographic Information</a>	On Demand Only
	<a href="#">ADHOC070 IHS Statewide Report</a>	On Demand Only
BMCW Data in reports is BMCW specific	<a href="#">CM01X106 BMCW 30 day Comprehensive Health Exam</a>	Weekly
	<a href="#">SM04A104 BMCW Caseload</a>	Weekly
	<a href="#">SM04A105 BMCW Billables</a>	Monthly
	<a href="#">SM04A106 BMCW IHS Monitoring Report</a>	Monthly
SM02 Access Reports	<a href="#">SM02X100 Access Report (Enhanced)</a>	Monthly
SM04a Maintain Case	<a href="#">SM04A02 Case List</a>	Monthly
	<a href="#">SM04A103 Case Assignment Report</a>	Monthly
SM06a Assessment	<a href="#">SM06A106 IA Tracking</a>	Daily
	<a href="#">SM06A109 Initial Assessment Report</a>	Monthly
SM10a Out-Of-Home Placement / In Home Services	<a href="#">SM10A112 Placement Activity and Detail</a>	Monthly
	<a href="#">SM10A114 Permanency Outcomes</a>	Monthly
	<a href="#">SM10A115 Re-Entry Into Out-Of-Home Care</a>	Monthly



# Accessing the correct data through On Demand reports

The database will prompt you to enter your data parameters, which for our purposes are 1/1/2012 through 9/30/2013.

**eWReports** Print

**On Demand Report Parameter Selection**  
SM10A112 - Placement Activity and Detail

The Placement Activity and Detail Report contains information related to children in out-of-home care (OHC). The report contains information regarding the flow of entries into and exits out of OHC, including the count of children in care at the end of the reporting period, and a count of total children served during the reporting period. The report also contains summary and detail information related to each child in OHC including placement settings, relative placements, and demographics.

Parameter	Value	Description
Start Date	01/01/2012	Start Date
End Date	09/30/2013	End Date
County	All Counties	County
Run Type	C	Run Type ('C'onsolidated or 'M'onthly Breakout) Required

Back Submit Close

# Accessing the correct data through On Demand reports

This screen shows that you successfully submitted your report request.

On Demand Report Request -- Webpage Dialog

**eWReports** Print

On Demand Report Request Edit  
SM10A112 - Placement Activity and Detail  
Request submitted successfully.

**On Demand Request Details**

Request # : 2064785  
Requestor: Smithback, Kelly (9882102)  
Date: 2013-10-01 14:23:05.0  
Status: SUBMITTED  
Comment:

**Parameters**

Start Date: 01/01/2012  
End Date: 09/30/2013  
County: All Counties  
Run Type: C

**Current Report Files**

No report files found for this request.

Close

# Accessing the correct data through On Demand reports

You can check the status of your report run. Use the refresh button to see when the report is 'Completed'.



https://apps.dcl.wisconsin.gov/ - eWReports - Desktop - Windows Internet Explorer

**eWReports** Reports for Kelly Smithback Request Refresh Logout

County: State

Report Outliner	Current	Archive	On Demand
Report Name	Status	Run Date	Report Output
<a href="#">ADHOC070 - IHS Statewide Report</a>	Completed	09/05/2013 16:26:32	<a href="#">ADHOC070 IHS Statewide.xls</a>
<a href="#">SM04A103 - Case Assignment Report</a>	Completed	09/19/2013 12:02:18	<a href="#">SM04A103_Case_ASSIGN.xls</a>
<a href="#">SM10A112 - Placement Activity and Detail</a>	Running	10/01/2013 14:23:09	Started on Tue Oct 01 14:23:09 CDT 2013

The completed report will appear as follows.



https://apps.dcl.wisconsin.gov/ - eWReports - Desktop - Windows Internet Explorer

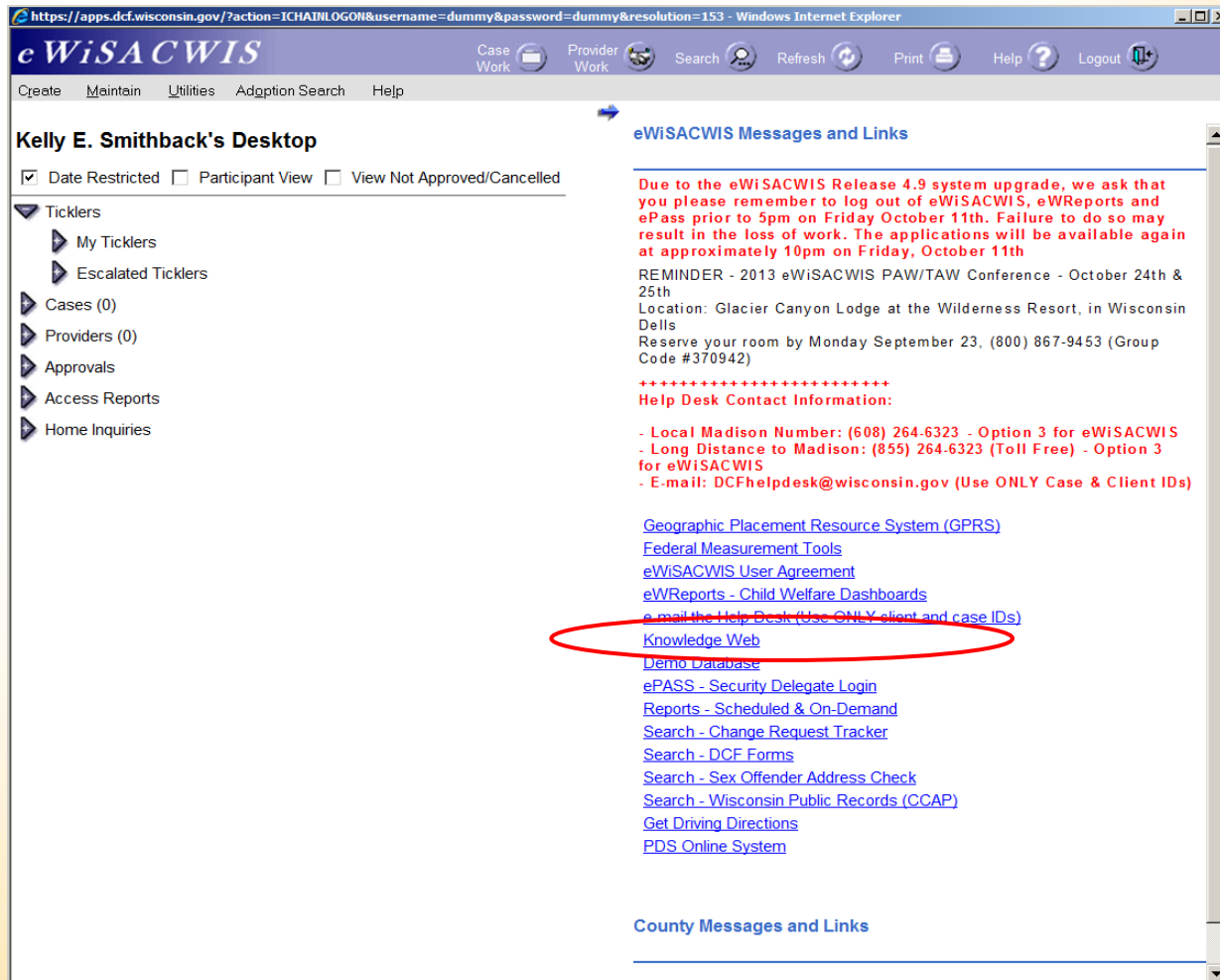
**eWReports** Reports for Kelly Smithback Request Refresh Logout

County: State

Report Outliner	Current	Archive	On Demand
Report Name	Status	Run Date	Report Output
<a href="#">ADHOC070 - IHS Statewide Report</a>	Completed	09/05/2013 16:26:32	<a href="#">ADHOC070 IHS Statewide.xls</a>
<a href="#">SM04A103 - Case Assignment Report</a>	Completed	09/19/2013 12:02:18	<a href="#">SM04A103_Case_ASSIGN.xls</a>
<a href="#">SM10A112 - Placement Activity and Detail</a>	Completed	10/01/2013 14:44:20	<a href="#">SM10A112 PLACEMENT ACTIVITY AND DETAIL.xls</a>

# Other Resources

- Knowledge Web:  
[http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/wisacwis/knowledge\\_web/index.htm](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/wisacwis/knowledge_web/index.htm)

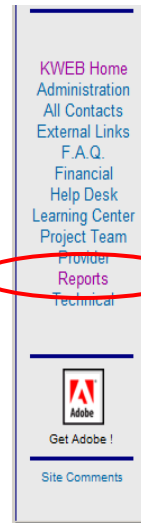




# Knowledge Web Resources:



Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (eWiSACWIS). The site includes current operational information for Wisconsin counties actively using eWiSACWIS and information for other states and counties interested in Wisconsin's SACWIS technologies. The site also includes listings of and descriptions of eWiSACWIS reports, which contain detailed case information used by local child welfare agency staff for child welfare purposes, and to which only appropriate child welfare agency staff and other authorized users have access to as provided under applicable law, including but not limited to Wisconsin Statutes, Sections 48.981, 48.78, and 48.396.



## What's New?

- eWiSACWIS Release 4.9 (October 2013) Release Notes
- eWiSACWIS Release 4.8 (June 2013) Quick Reference Guides
- eWiSACWIS Release 4.8 (June 2013) Release Notes
- Updated - Financial Batch Processing Calendar 2013
- eWiSACWIS Release 4.7 (February 2013) Release Notes
- eWiSACWIS 2012 PAW/TAW (Oct 25 & 26)



What's New Archive

## eWiSACWIS and Business Links

eWiSACWIS Production Login

- DCF LAN Self-Service Portal
- ePASS Security Delegate Login
- eWiSACWIS Account Recovery
- eWiSACWIS (Demo for Analysts)
- eWiSACWIS (Demo for Counties)
- eWiSACWIS Help Desk
- eWiSACWIS (Incident Tracker)
- eWiSACWIS User Agreement
- eWiSACWIS WAMS Registration
- eWReports (Outcome Measurements)
- eWReports (Scheduled & On Demand)
- Get Driving Directions
- Search DCF Forms
- Search WI Public Records (CCAP)
- WI DOC Sex Offender Registry

## Frequently Used Links

- AFCARS Help Page
- Chapter 48 Children's Code
- CPS, Safety, Ongoing Standards
- E-Mail Help Desk
- eW Highlights Webcasts & Notes
- eWReports User Guide
- ePASS Quick Reference Guides
- eWiSACWIS Financial Manual
- Federal Reports & Dashboard
- Hints and Tips
- How Do I Guides
- ICWA Contacts
- PAW/TAW
- Placement Documentation Manual
- Quick Reference Guides
- Template Mapping
- Worker Registration FAQ

## Standards, Memos, Forms:

- [http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/wisacwis/knowledge\\_web/administration/memos-and-standards.htm](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/wisacwis/knowledge_web/administration/memos-and-standards.htm)

## User Guide:

- [http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/wisacwis/knowledge\\_web/reports/testing-and-using/User-Guide-eWReports.pdf](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/wisacwis/knowledge_web/reports/testing-and-using/User-Guide-eWReports.pdf)

## Quick Reference Guide:

- [http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/wisacwis/knowledge\\_web/training/quick-ref-guides/quick-reference-guides.htm](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/wisacwis/knowledge_web/training/quick-ref-guides/quick-reference-guides.htm)

## Reports:

- [http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/wisacwis/knowledge\\_web/reports/reports\\_home.htm](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/wisacwis/knowledge_web/reports/reports_home.htm)

# Decision Tree:

Each link provides a list of available eW Reports relating to each topic, such as Safety, Permanence, and Well Being.



## Reports Decision Tree

### ANNOUNCING:

The Reports Decision Tree - a new tool for helping you find the reports you're looking for.

- ▶ [Click here to learn more about Safety](#)
- ▶ [Click here to learn more about Permanence](#)
- ▶ [Click here to learn more about Well-Being](#)
- ▶ [Click here to learn more about Administrative](#)
- ▶ [Click here to learn more about Fiscal](#)
- ▶ [Click here to learn more about BMCW](#)
- ▶ [Click here to learn more about all Reports](#)
- ▶ [Click here to learn \*What's New\*](#)

So...

Now that you know what tools are  
available to you...



# Examples

## HOW TO ASK BETTER QUESTIONS USING DATA



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



# Examples

## Characteristics

- What does my population look like?

## Monitoring

- How do I understand what is happening with my population?

## Performance/Outcomes

- How does what we do everyday effect our population?

# Examples...utilizing reports...

SM10A112\_PLACEMENT\_ACTIVITY\_AND\_DETAIL(1) [Compatibility Mode] - Microsoft Excel

	A1							
7427	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7428	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7429	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7430	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7431	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7432	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7433	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7434	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7435	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7436	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7437	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7438	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7439	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7440	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7441	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7442	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7443	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7444	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7445	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7446	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7447	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7448	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7449	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8099197	Weber, Jenny	
7450	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8380452	Timmerman, David	
7451	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8380452	Timmerman, David	
7452	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8380452	Timmerman, David	
7453	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8380452	Timmerman, David	
7454	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8380452	Timmerman, David	
7455	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8380452	Timmerman, David	
7456	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8380452	Timmerman, David	
7457	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8380452	Timmerman, David	
7458	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8380452	Timmerman, David	
7459	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8380452	Timmerman, David	
7460	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8380452	Timmerman, David	
7461	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8380452	Timmerman, David	
7462	10/1/2013	1/1/2012	9/30/2013	State	State Central Office	8380452	Timmerman, David	

Ready Average: 2646720.369 Count: 506102 Sum: 4.08169E+11 85%

# How many unique removals occurred in CY 2012, for youth aged 15 or older?

Cohort Analysis - Microsoft Excel

PivotTable Tools: Options, Design

File Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View

Clipboard Font Alignment Number Conditional Formatting Styles Cells Editing

Calibri 11 A A

Wrap Text

General

AutoSum Fill Clear Sort & Filter Find & Select

A4 Detention

Row Labels	Count of CHILD_ID
Detention	250
Foster Home	220
Group Home	91
Institutions	35
Kinship Care	27
Missing From Out-of-Home Care	1
RCC	62
Shelter	240
Supervised Ind. Living	4
Treatment Foster Home	32
Grand Total	962
Family Setting	279
Foster Home	220
Treatment Foster Home	32
Kinship Care	27
Non-Family Setting	683
Detention	250
Group Home	91
Institutions	35
Missing From Out-of-Home Care	1
RCC	62
Shelter	240
Supervised Ind. Living	4

PivotTable Field List

Choose fields to add to report:

- ☐ RUN\_DATE
- ☐ QUERY\_START\_DATE
- ☐ QUERY\_END\_DATE
- ☐ PLCMNT\_CARE\_RSPNSBLTY\_COUNTY
- ☐ SITE\_REGION
- ☐ SUPERVISOR\_ID
- ☐ SUPERVISOR\_NAME
- ☐ WORKER\_ID
- ☐ WORKER\_NAME
- ☐ CASE\_ID
- ☐ CASE\_NAME
- ☐ CASE\_TYPE
- ☒ CHILD\_ID
- ☐ CHILD\_NAME
- ☐ CHILD\_GENDER
- ☐ CHILD\_DOB
- ☐ REMOVAL\_DATE
- ☐ Age at Removal
- ☐ CHILD\_PERSON\_TYPE
- ☐ CHILD\_RACE
- ☐ CHILD\_ETHNICITY

Drag fields between areas below:

Report Filter

Column Labels

Row Labels

PLACEMENT\_TYPE

Σ Values

Count of CHILD\_ID

Defer Layout Update

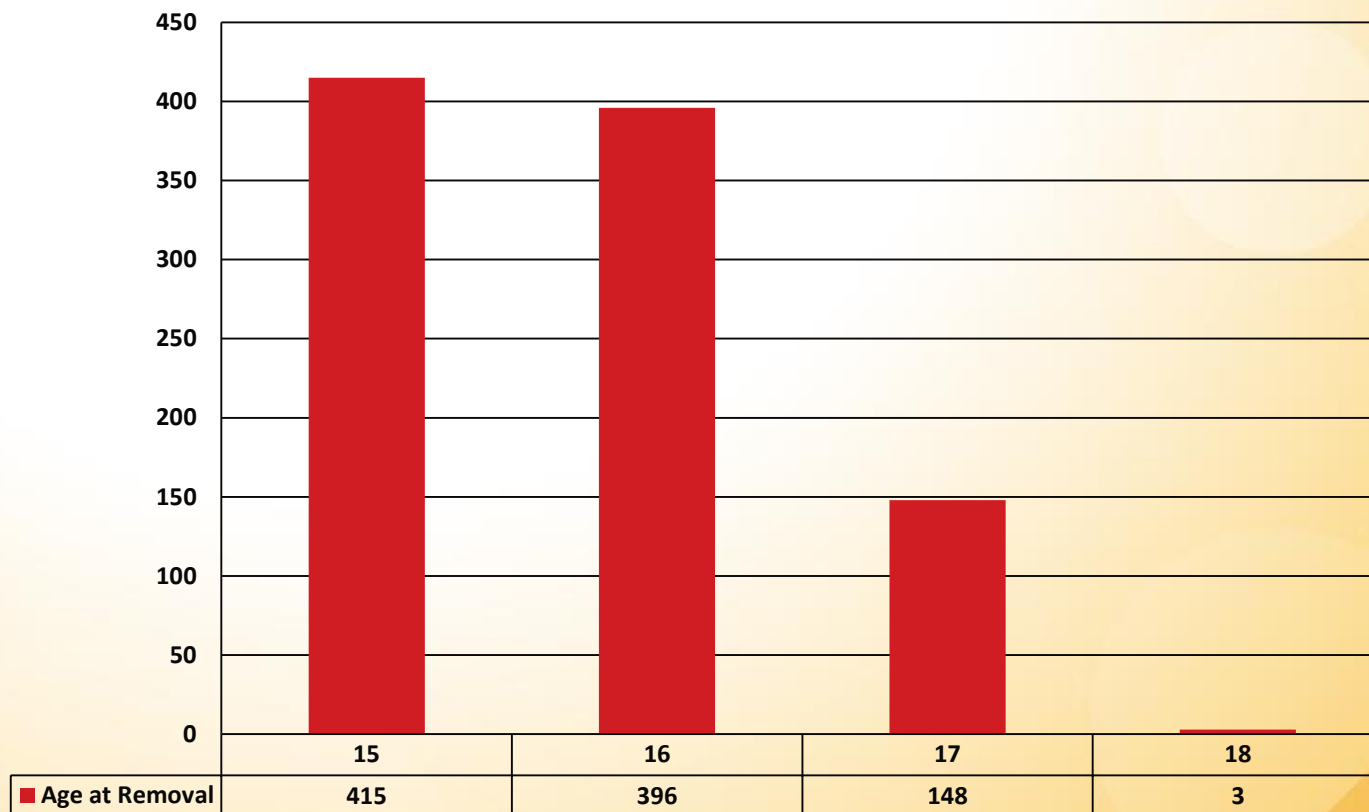
Update

Ready Entry Pivot 15 and Up Entry Coh

# Characteristics

- What does my population look like?
- How many removals occurred in CY 2012 for children that were 15 years or older?

**Age at Removal, Youth 15 and Older, CY 2012**



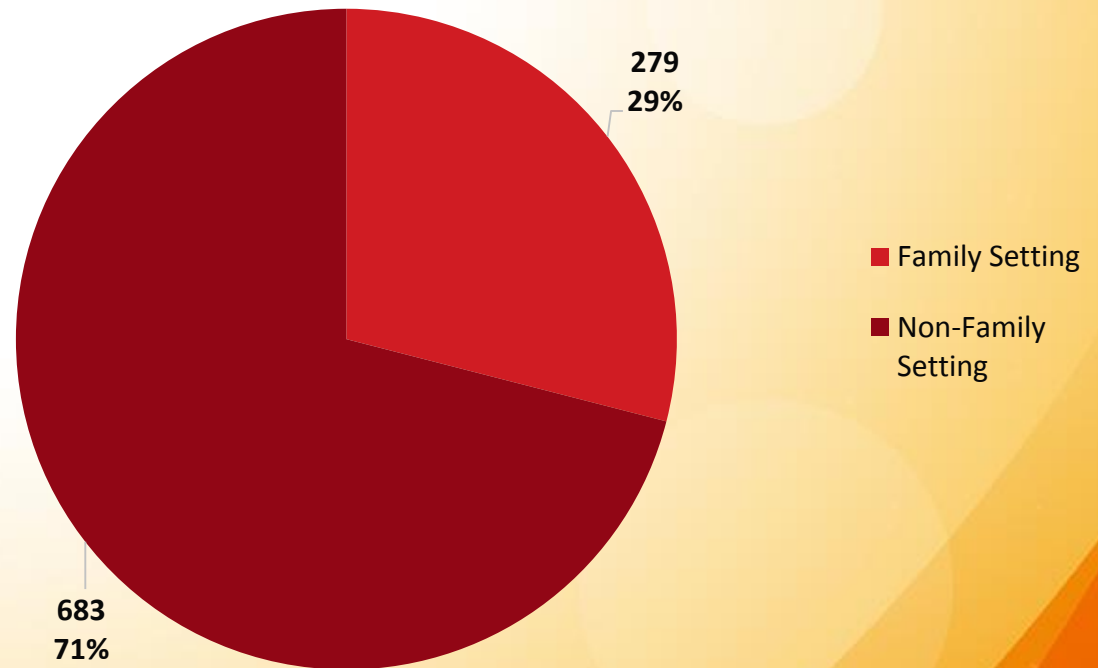


# Monitoring

- How do I understand what is happening with my population?
- Of those removals in CY 2012 for children aged 15 years older, was their initial placement a family setting or non-family setting?

Family Setting	Count of CHILD_ID
Foster Home	220
Treatment Home	32
Kinship Care	27
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>279</b>
Non-Family Setting	Count of CHILD_ID
Detention	250
Shelter	240
Group Home	91
RCC	62
Institutions	35
Supervised Ind. Living	4
Missing from OHC	1
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>683</b>

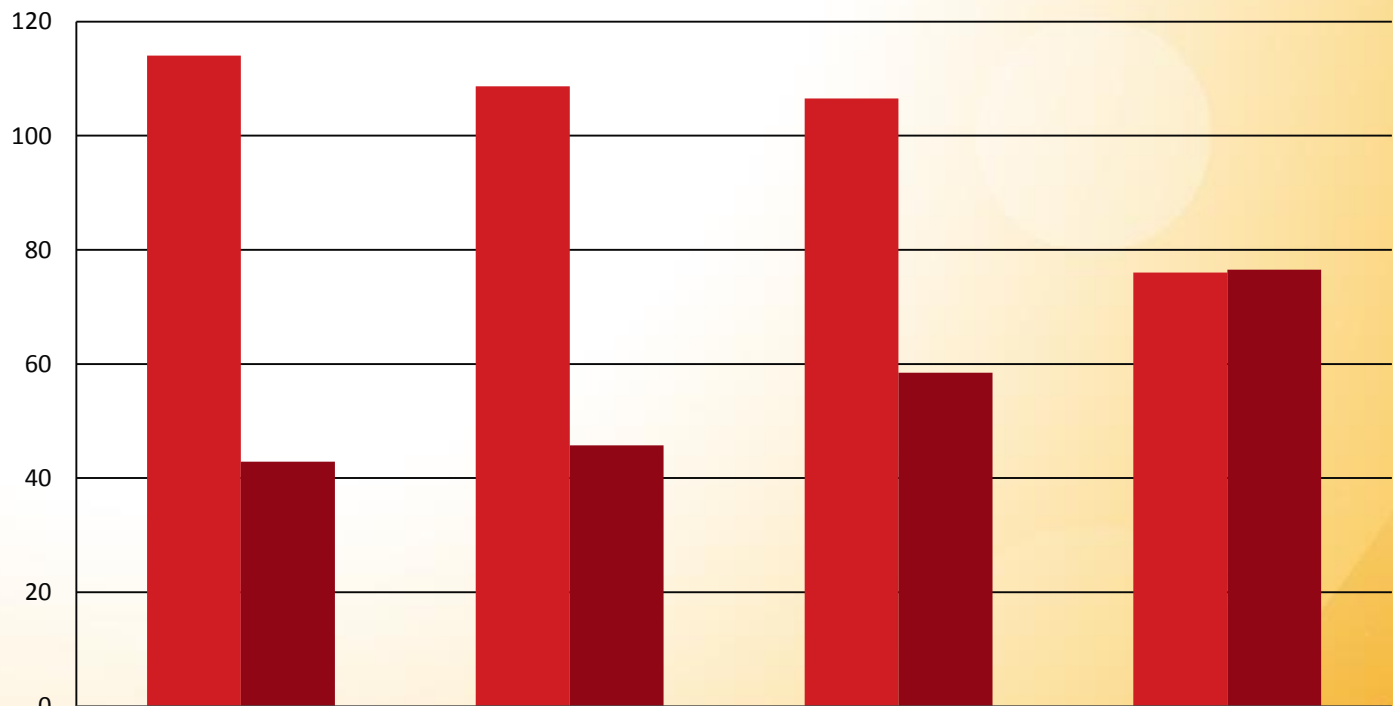
2012 Entries, 15 years and Older



# Monitoring

- How do I understand what is happening with my population?
- Of those removals in CY 2012 for children aged 15 years or older, what is their average length of stay?

**Age at Removal, Average Length of Stay in Days**



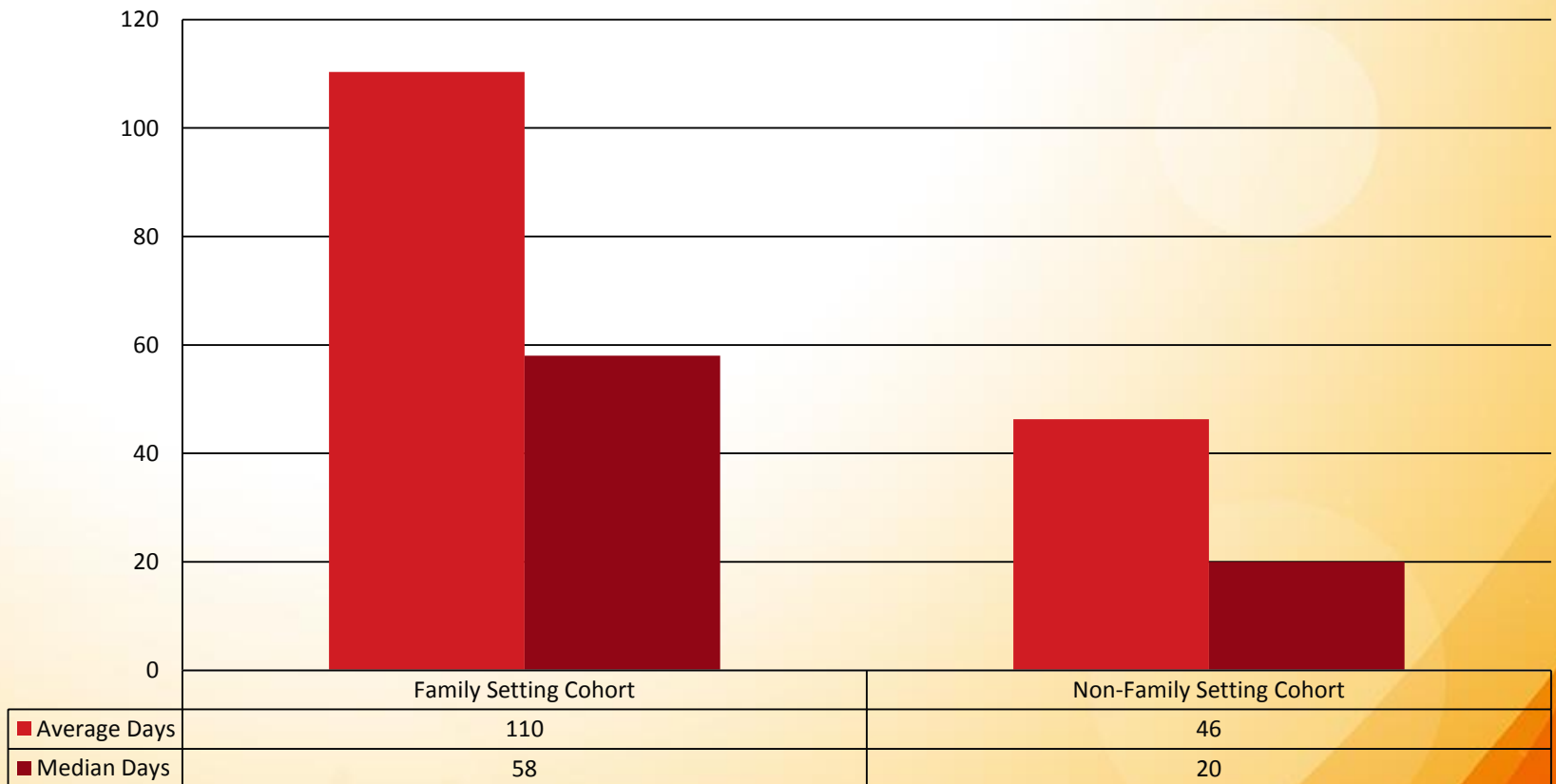
	Age 15	Age 16	Age 17	Age 18
Family Setting Cohort	114	109	107	76
Non-Family Setting Cohort	43	46	58	77

# Monitoring

Why is it important to know the difference?

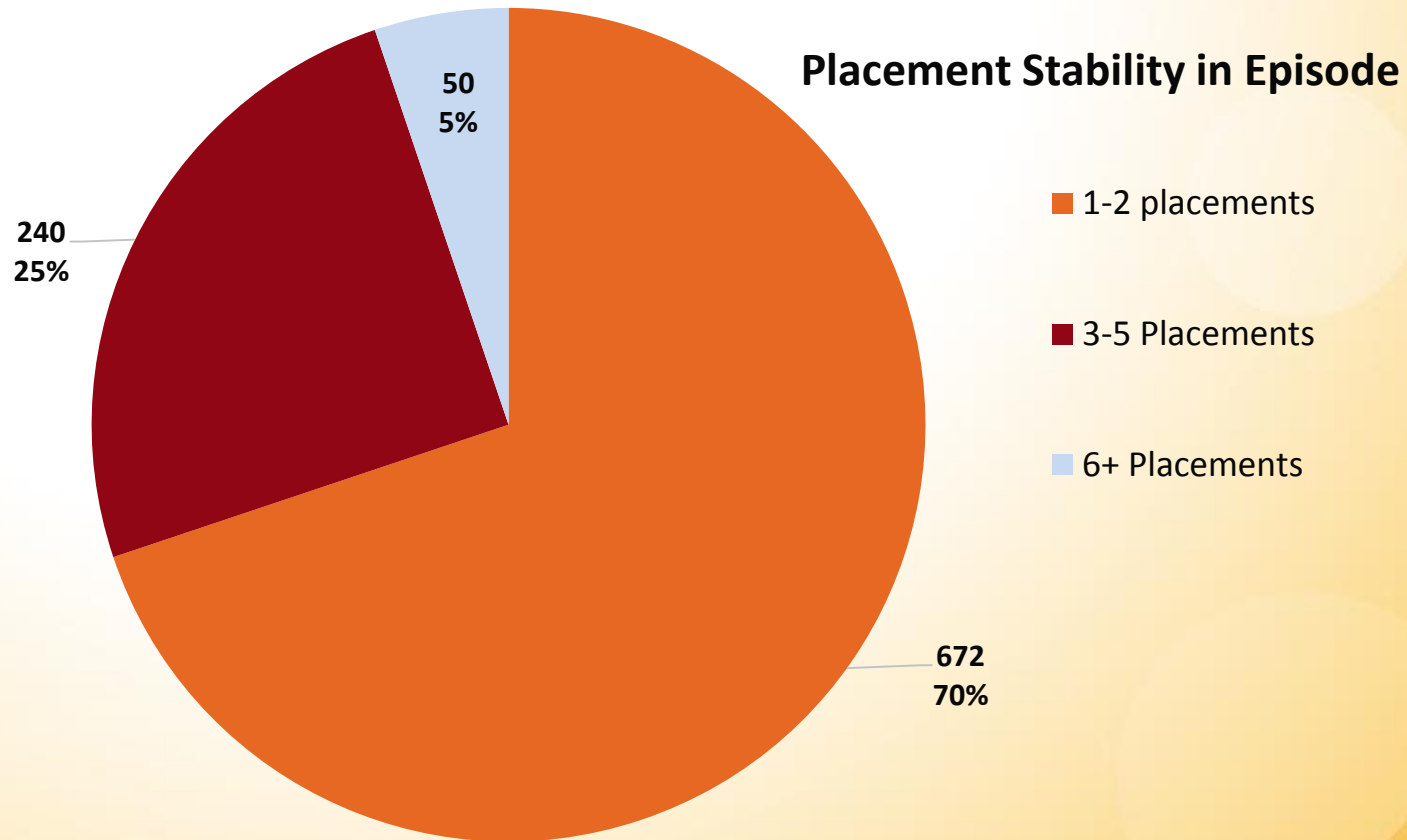
- How do I understand what is happening with my population?
- Of those removals in CY 2012 for children aged 15 years or older, what is their average and median length of stay broken out by initial placement setting?

**Length of Stay in Days Comparison (Median v. Average)**



# Performance/Outcomes

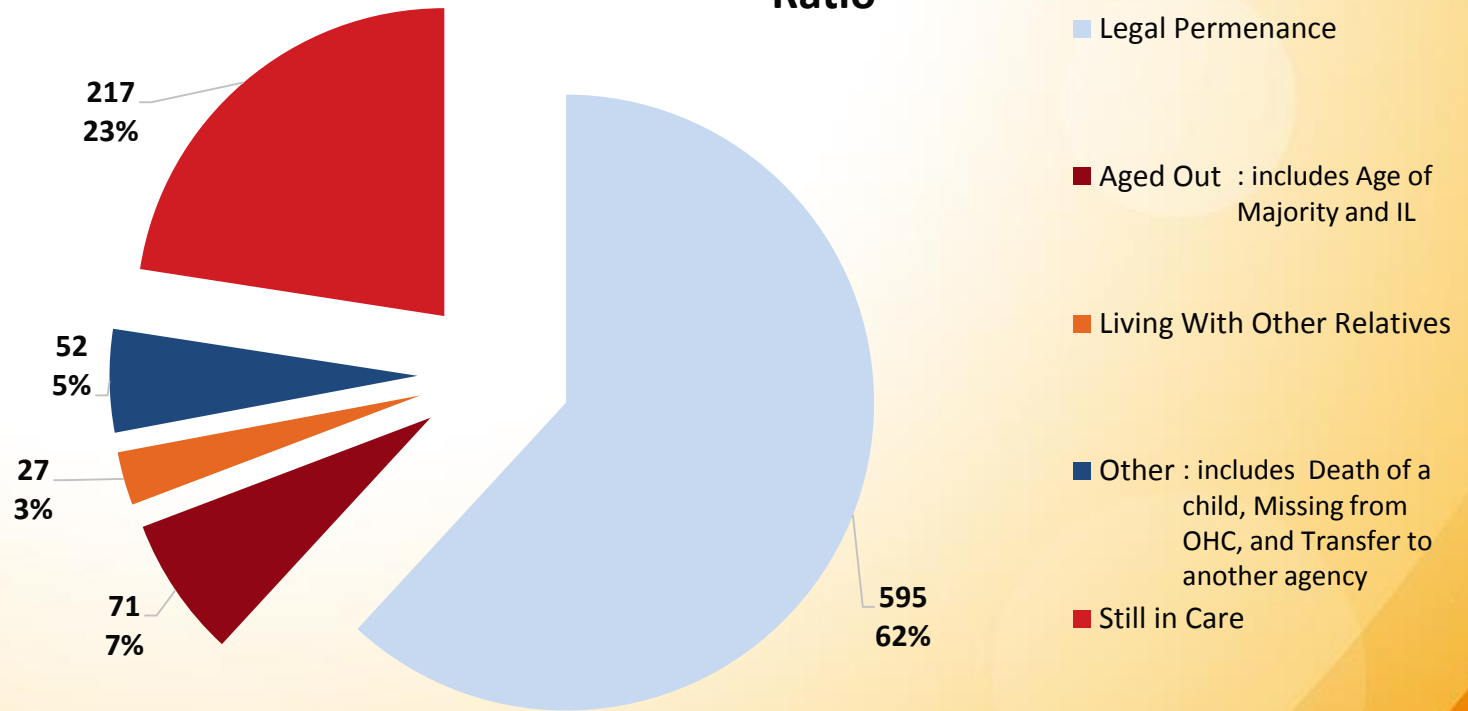
- How does what we do everyday affect our population?
- Of those removals in CY 2012 for children aged 15 years or older, what is the placement stability within their episodes?



# Performance/Outcomes

- How does what we do everyday affect our population?
- Of those removals in CY 2012 for children aged 15 years or older, what were the discharge reasons?

**Entry Cohort Youth Aged 15 and Older, CY 2012, Discharge Ratio**



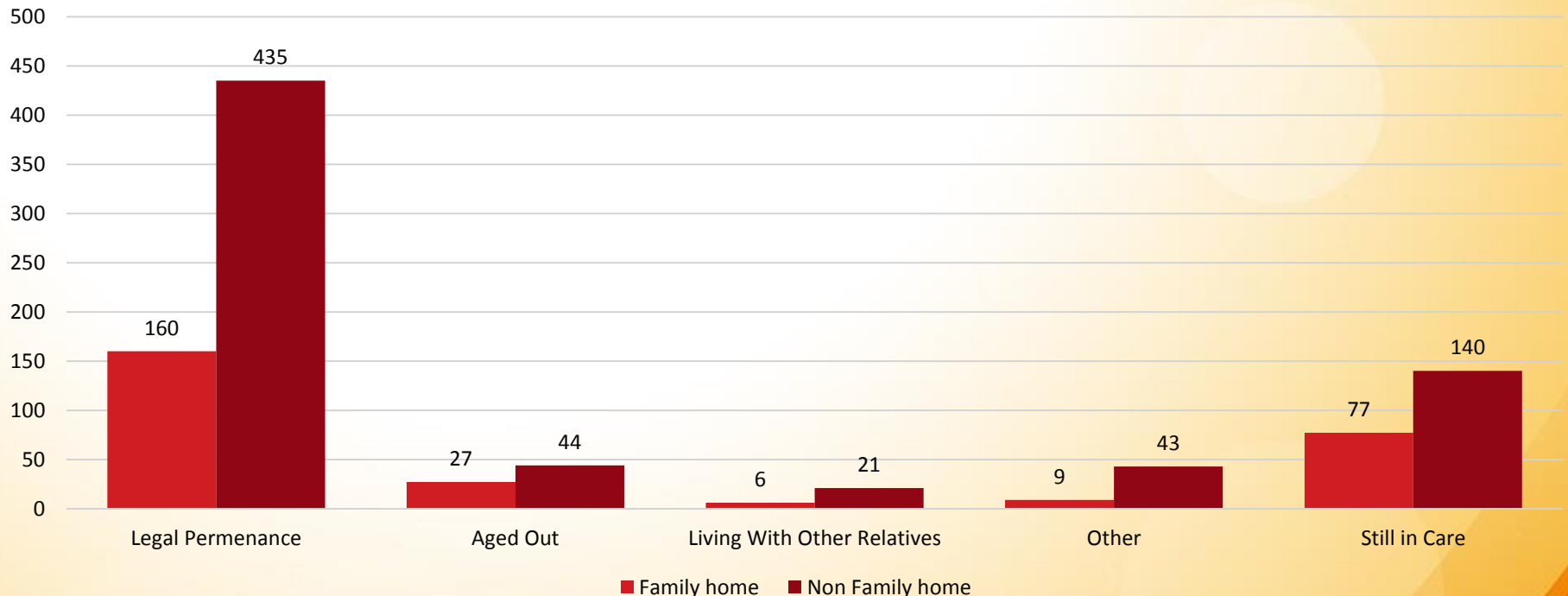


# Performance/Outcomes

Why is it important to think about how you display your data?

- How does what we do everyday affect our population?
- Of those removals in CY 2012 for children aged 15 years or older, what were the discharge reason comparing youth initially placed in a family home setting versus a non-family home setting?

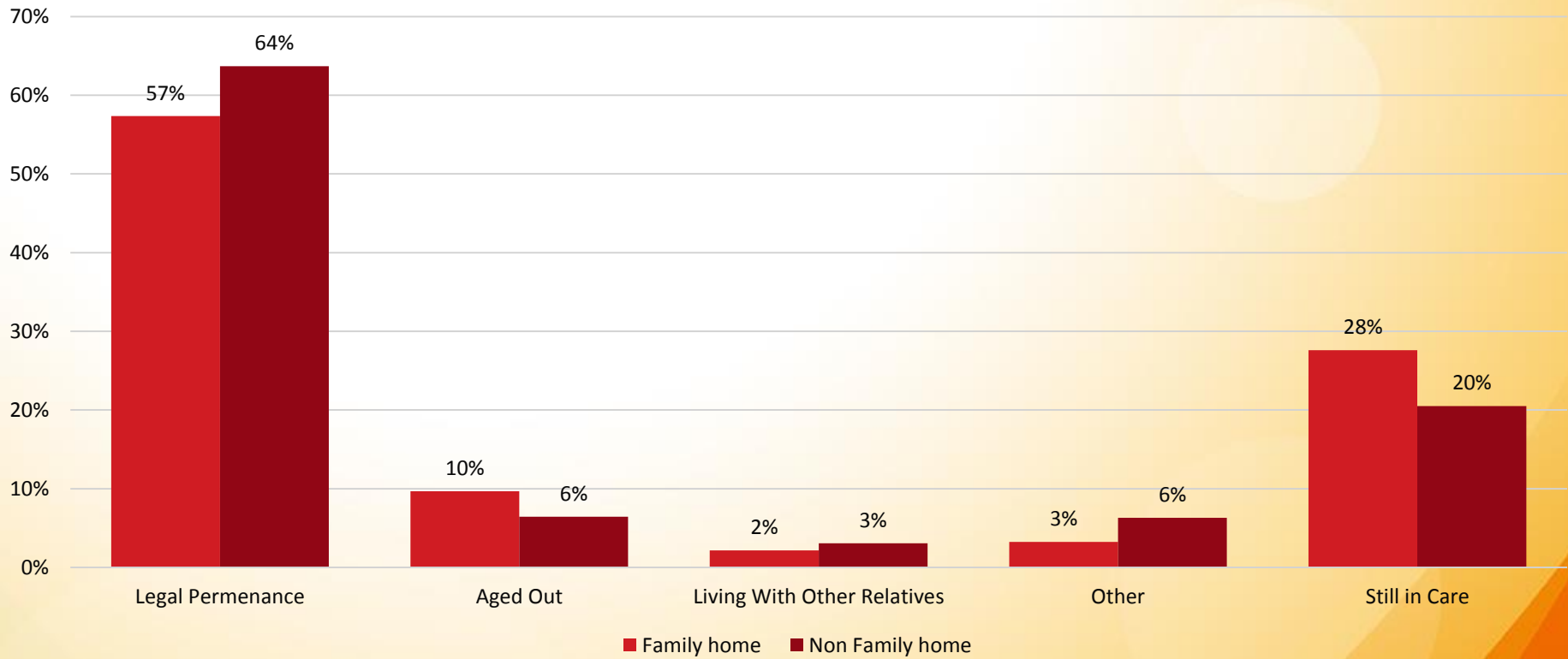
**Entry Cohort Youth Aged 15 and Older, CY 2012, Discharge Reasons**



# Performance/Outcomes

- How does what we do everyday effect our population?
- Of those removals in CY 2012 for children aged 15 years or older, what were the discharge reason comparing youth initially placed in a family home setting versus a non-family home setting?

**Entry Cohort Youth Aged 15 and Older, CY 2012, Discharge Ratio**



# New questions of interest?

- Based on the examples provided today, lets list some new questions that have come up for us.
- What does placement stability look like for youth entering care in CY 2012, aged 15 years or older broken out by entry placement setting (family v. non-family setting)?
- What is the discharge reasons ratio for youth entering care in CY 2012, aged 15 years or older, broken out by entry placement setting (family v. non-family setting)?
- Of those children who entered care in CY 2012, aged 15 years or older; what is their average and median length of stay broken out by age?

# Questions...and...Thank You!

## Division of Safety and Permanence Research Unit

The Research Unit is comprised of performance planning staff that work directly with program areas and technical staff that develop and code data for reporting purposes. The Research Unit analyzes and monitors data regarding program initiatives, program implementation plans, reports and statistics, program outcomes assessment, program reviews, state and federal reporting, and activity information related to the child welfare program.

The three primary areas of focus within the research unit include:

### Safety and Well-being Performance

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### Permanency and Placement Performance

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### Provider Performance

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#### CPS reports: Access and Initial Assessments

Case management

General education

NCANDS reporting

Healthcare

#### Child characteristic

Placement characteristics

Permanency outcomes

Independent Living

AFCARS and NYTD

#### Provider characteristics analysis

Performance based contracting

Foster Care Medical Home

Licensing compliance

Rate analysis

